

## PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Malawi: Sixth Provincial Chapter

The Provincial Chapter of Southern Africa was held in Mtendere from 18 to 21 October. On the morning of the 19th, Br Antonio Ramalho C.G. read out the resolution of the General Council on 18 July confirming Br Joseph Walton in his second term as Provincial. At the end of the Chapter, the assembly approved a communique to the Province, which we are publishing below. Brothers from the neighbouring communities and the 11 postulants of the Province were present at the closing Eucharist, and shared in the convivial meal which followed.

We the delegates of the Sixth Provincial Chapter feel compelled to write a communiqué to brief you on what has taken place. The atmosphere that prevailed during the meeting as we sat at round tables was conducive to creating a sense of unity and openness.

The Chapter took place in Mtendere, Malawi. It started in the evening of 18th October 2013, soon after supper with a prayer led by the Malawian capitulants. The prayer in a special way remembered and paid tribute to Brothers Vincent Chunga, Aidan Bridge, Anthony Docherty, Kizito Bute and Martin Xavier who died since the last Provincial Chapter. After the prayer, the preparatory committee explained the proposed time table and then scrutators were chosen.



The Provincial then conducted the roll call which indicated that all the 22 capitulants were present.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brothers Joao Carlos do Prado, Miguel Angel Espinosa and Javier Espinosa were with the Preparatory Commission for the II Mission Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21 to 28 October. Br Joao does the same preparation with MIC and PACE from 28 October to 2 November.

Br Emili Turu was at the meeting of the Province of West-Central Europe in Germany from 25 to 27 October.

Br Chris Wills is currently in South Africa to meet with persons and institutions involved in volunteer service.

Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sanchez met with the Provincial Council of Mediterranea in Rome on 26 and 27 October.

Br César Rojas is visiting the novitiate of Matola, Mozambique, from 29 October to 4 November.

The second day started with a prayer led by South African capitulants and it concentrated on the poor children and was inspired by the circular, Sowers of Hope (Br. Charles Howard).

This was followed by the Provincial's report and assessment of the past three years. He shared more on the work done in the past three years as mandated by the previous Chapter. It focused on the successes and challenges the province is facing. The report concentrated on the following themes: vocation and perseverance, mission, laity, new ways of being brother, community, formation, communication, commissions and finances.

Thereafter, the capitulants worked in groups reflecting on the report. This led to the identification of priorities that the Provincial and his council should concentrate on in the next three years. The following were brought out as the most pressing issues: strategic plan for the Province, Financial self-sustaining projects, vocation promotion, post MIC on-going formation, concern for the poor children and community animation

On the third day, the capitulants started by reaffirming the priorities and the proposed ways and means of achieving and or realizing the proposed priorities

for the province.

Another important issue was a report on the finances of the Province. According to the report, only two out of the six countries are self reliant and make financial contribution to the Province. Generally the province is in financial difficulties. Brothers suggested strongly that the Province should move towards self reliance.

Management structure of the Province was also a very crucial issue that was tabled. Two proposals were brought up to either change the number of councilors or to maintain the existing system. The capitulants voted to maintain the old structure where six councilors are elected from each country making up the Province.

The day closed with nominations in preparation for the elections of the Provincial councilors

The fourth day commenced with a prayer led by Brothers from Angola. The prayer had "Laity" as a theme and they used Br Seán's circular, Making Jesus Known and Loved, to lead the Chapter into prayer.

The Chapter then proceeded with the election of the Councillors. The following Brothers were elected:

- \* Angola: Br. Tomas Sawayenga
- \* Malawi: Br. Frank Mwambucha
- \* Mozambique: Br. Felizardo Maceia
- \* South Africa: Br. Jude Pieterse
- \* Zambia: Bro Patrick Bushilya
- \* Zimbabwe: Br. Fortune Chakasara (who was later appointed Deputy Provincial)

The Chapter has taken time to set the priorities and areas that we feel are of great concern. It has also provided some possible solutions.

We urge you dear Brothers and all our collaborators that we move with passion to assist the Provincial and his council whenever we are called upon to respond to these urgent needs.

It is our hope that the articulated priorities will be put into a workable plan of action which will surely rely on all of us to be implemented successfully.

It is our hope and prayer that together with Mary our Good Mother, we will go in haste to the new land!

United as Little Brothers of Mary

The Members of the Sixth Provincial Chapter



## Salamanca - Institute of Marist Studies Days of Solidarity and Volunteer Service

It is the University which wishes to play a leading role in human development, in order to "build a more just and participative society through volunteer service, co-operation and work in the Third Sector". For this purpose, the fundamental objective is to develop strategies for action which promote active solidarity and volunteer service, the training, education, investigation and awareness raising of the university community.

In this sense, the success of the I Days held in 2011, has led the Institute of Marist Studies (IEM) of the Pontifical University of Salamanca (UPSA) to organize as a structure for training and awareness raising the II Days of Solidarity and Volunteer Service: "to share experiences", so as to make known the entirety of these experiences in volunteer service, special practices and practices in solidarity, in Salamanca, on 7 and 8 November 2013.

It is equally desired to make known the accords on the offer of volunteer service and the different fields of work with the NGO SED, with which UPSA has signed a Covenant of Collaboration, for this course.

The II Days are intended for educators, teachers, professors, guidance counsellors, parents, students and persons interested in the topic.



# CO-TRUSTEES OF THE CHARISM OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

## Meeting of the European Commission of the Laity

The second meeting of the European Commission of the Laity for the communion of brothers and laity was held in Barcelona from 2 to 4 October and involved Br Teo Aller (Compostela), Jorge García (Ibérica), Br Albert André (West-Central Europe), Pep Buetas (L'Hermitage / Secretariat of the Laity), Br Ventura Pérez (Mediterránea) and Br Javier Espinosa of the Secretariat of the Laity.



Santa María de los Andes, the standard document of vocations ministry of the province of the Hermitage and the conclusions of the last meeting in Las Avellanes.

The meeting also allowed us to visit some of the social works of the Hermitage province, such as the Gabellas Association in the Gothic quarter of Barcelona, and to experience a pleasant social with the community of the college of Sants-les Corts, which hosted us, and with the community of Llinars.

At this second meeting, the commission continued its work in sharing the different situations of each province with reference to the participation of the laity in the Institute as co-trustees of the charism of Champagnat.

There was sharing on experiences of joint formation, such as the vocational weekends of the province of the Hermitage, the joint formation groups of

the province of Ibérica, and, from the secretariat, the latest experience of the province of Norandina. There was also dialogue on the new experiences of mixed communities in Erandio (Ibérica) and Salamanca (Compostela), as well as on the project of the community of Llinars (L'Hermitage). There was reflection on the pastoral and vocational programmes based on the process of

The sense of communion with the European provinces as well as with the other continental commissions continues to grow in us. To be a reminder of this communion in the spirit of Champagnat is our wish in journeying with laity and brothers.

Jorge García Ochoa de Aspuru



## Province of Rio Grande do Sul Marist Youth Meeting attracts nearly 900 persons

On 19 October, nearly 900 young people thronged the different rooms of the « Colégio Marista São Luis, in Santa Cruz, for the meeting of Marist Youth of the Province of « Rio Grande do Sul ». The meeting, with its central theme of Here I am ! (Is 6:8), placed the accent on the role of young people in the daily exercise of citizenship and in the construction of a more just and brotherly world. Throughout the day, the youth had the chance of taking part

in round tables, animation and moments of reflection and discussion on the proposed theme.

The MYM is a meeting which brings together the participants of the Marist Youth Ministry to celebrate the year's progress and reflect on suggested themes. The next Marist Youth Meeting, in 2014, will be held at the « Colégio Marista Conceição », in Passo Fundo.



## 31 October 1996 - Martyrs of Bugobe

Brothers Servando Mayor, Miguel Angel Isla, Fernando la Fuente and Julio Rodriguez were assassinated at the Bugobe Refugee Camp (Congo) on 31 October 1996. They had been working in the huge camp of Nyamriganwe since 1995. They had been organising the education of the children, had helped in the liturgy, had supervised the operation of the grinding mill and had provided help with their vehicle. In their letters and other writings these brothers kept declaring their real love for the displaced people and their strong loyalty to the same; the refugees had become "their family". They had given up their lives to the Lord again; they had heard God's call in this Calvary like camp where so many persons lived in agony. They liked their new family, the refugees, more than the families they had left in Spain. Like their Lord, they loved up to the bitter end. The evident virtue that shone in and around them was LOVE. "There is no greater love than to surrender our lives for those we love!" John, 15:13.

# MARIST PUBLISHERS

## II International Meeting

The II International Meeting of Marist Publishing Houses was held in the city of Saragossa, Spain, on 7 and 8 October, with the participation of representatives of 6 publishers: Editorial CHAMPAGNAT, Editorial FTD and Editorial EDIPUCRS from Brasil; Editorial PROGRESO of Mexico; Editorial GRAM from Argentina and Editorial EDELVIVES of Spain. Also present were the Provincials Br Ambrosio Alonso of the Province of Ibérica and Br Oscar Martín Vicario of Compostela. Brs João Carlos do Prado and Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera represented the Secretariat of Mission.

The meeting was held in the Palace of Aljafería, constructed in the middle of the XI century and declared a patrimony of humanity in 2001 by UNESCO. At present it is the seat of the Court of Aragón.

Called under the title of "Network of Ideas", it continued the strengthening of the Network of Marist Publishers, beginning with a conference of the Maestro, Ewan Macintosh, which opened horizons in the way of looking at education, and invited the generation of creative tools to allow the student to tell his own story, in develop-



ing curiosity, the capacity for listening and the humility to learn, developing integral processes of learning for life. There was also a sharing of the journey of the last two years, and the experiences of success or innovation the publishing houses have had.

The following day, the work focused on three topics: social networks, networks of technology and networks of images, on which agreements can be made and mechanisms created for working together until the next meet-

ing in 2016.

The meeting approved the creation and the statutes of the "International Marist Network of Publishers" and assumed responsibility for studying the proposal of the philosophy of the Network for the next meeting. It appointed the Editorial GRAM, of Argentina, as the party responsible for organizing the III Assembly of the Network, Br Agustín Martínez Marcos remaining as president of the same.

The ambiance of the group was of a high quality, thanks to the detailed work and foresight of the EDELVIVES hosts, thanks to whom the experience was productive, leaving the way open for the transformation of the publishing realities.

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